GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3993
ANSWERED ON:09.04.2003
VPT IN ALL GRAM PANCHAYATS
VSM (RETD.) COL. CHOUDHARY

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether all Gram Panchayts in the country were to be provided telephone connections under VPT by December, 2002;

(b) if so, the facts thereof;

(c) the number of Gram Panchayats yet to be provided telephone connections under the aforesaid scheme;

(d) the time by which the Government propose to connect all the remaining Gram Panchayats in the country especially those in far flung areas; and

(e) the measures taken / proposed to be taken by the Government to ensure that all the remaining Gram Panchayats are provided VPT by this year end?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRIMATI S MAHAJAN)

(a) & (b) Yes, Sir. All the uncovered villages including Gram Panchayats were planned to be covered by Dec., 2002 but these could not be provided with telecom facility due to following reasons:

(i) Permission to commission Wireless in Local Loop (WLL) systems in North Eastern Region and Jammu & Kashmir was not earlier given clearance due to security reasons but now it has been granted and these regions will also be covered.

(ii) Remote and far flung isolated areas are planned to be covered through satellite media which shall be done in a time bound manner subject to availability of funds.

(c) 7,538 Gram Panchayats are yet to be covered by telecom facility under VPT scheme by BSNL.

(d) & (e) Gram Panchayats to be covered by terrestrial media are planned to covered by December, 2003 and those in remote and far flung isolated areas by satellite media shall be covered within one year from the date of availability of funds from the government.